

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/976,082

Examiner

Steven H VerSteeg

Applicant(s)

KAO, CHUNG-EN

Art Unit

1753

cd

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to appeal brief filed October 29, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-5 and 7-14.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed 09 June 2003, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

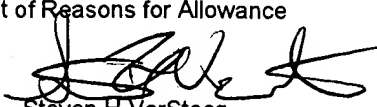
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____
- 4 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

- 5 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____
- 7 ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9 ☐ Other _____


Steven H VerSteeg
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Randy Tung on December 18, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

[004], line 12, please delete "Endura®" and insert --ENDURA®--

In the claims:

Claim 3, line 2, please delete "2" and insert -1—

Claim 3, line 2, please delete "said" and insert -a—

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method for self-centering a wafer on a wafer pedestal comprising the steps of:

fabricating a lifter body for a wafer lifter with a material that has a rigidity of at least that of aluminum [or stainless steel], said lifter body having an annular shape and a center cavity with a diameter that is larger than a diameter of said wafer pedestal, said wafer lifter further having at least four support fingers emanating upwardly from said lifter body and are spaced-apart from each other, and a platform on a tip portion of each of said at least four support fingers defined by a slanted surface from a vertical plane of an outside surface of said support finger, said platform

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when supporting a wafer thereon leaves substantially no gap between said slanted surface and an outer periphery of the wafer;

positioning a wafer on said wafer lifter supported by said platform on said tip portion of the at least four support fingers; and

lifting said wafer lifter to pedestal and depositing said wafer onto a position over said wafer onto said pedestal.

Please delete claim 15

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: it is neither anticipated nor obvious over the prior art of record to have a wafer lifter for self-centering a wafer on a pedestal as claimed by Applicant in claim 1 wherein the lifter body is fabricated of a material that has a rigidity of at least that of aluminum or a method for self-centering a wafer on a wafer pedestal as claimed by Applicant in claim 10 comprising fabricating a lifter body for a wafer lifter with a material that has a rigidity of at least that of aluminum.

3. US 5,958,198 to Banholzer et al. (Banholzer) discloses the exact same structural body as claimed by Applicant and the exact same method of self-centering as claimed by Applicant except that Banholzer does not disclose the material that fabricates that lifter body.

4. US 5,114,556 to Lamont, Jr. (Lamont) discloses that when sputtering aluminum for semiconductor devices, it is best to coat all parts of a chamber with aluminum in order to prevent contamination of the semiconductor wafer.

5. Thus, when Lamont modifies Banholzer, the lifter body would be "coated" with aluminum, but not "fabricated" by aluminum. A reasonable interpretation of "fabricated" and

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“fabricating” means that the body is “made of” the substance, not “coated with” the substance.

Thus, Banholzer modified by Lamont does not teach Applicant’s claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

General Information

For general status inquiries on applications not having received a first action on the merits, please contact the Technology Center 1700 receptionist at (703) 308-0661.

For inquiries involving Recovery of lost papers & cases, sending out missing papers, resetting shortened statutory periods, or for restarting the shortened statutory period for response, please contact Palestine Jenkins at (703) 308-3521.

For general inquiries such as fees, hours of operation, and employee location, please contact the Technology Center 1700 receptionist at (703) 308-0661.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven H VerSteeg whose telephone number is (571) 272-1348. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs (7:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Nam X Nguyen can be reached on (703) 308-3322. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


Steven H VerSteeg
Primary Examiner
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December 18, 2003